

Practice Tips

Effective Date:

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questions, please
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Basic Household Safety Assessment

A *Basic Household Safety Assessment* assesses potential threats to child safety in unlicensed emergent or urgent placements under consideration prior to the home study.

Prior to placing the child in an emergent or urgent placement for courtesy supervision with unlicensed relatives or suitable persons, the *sending social worker* is required to complete the *Basic Household Safety Assessment* per Practice and Procedures Guide, section [45274- Unlicensed Placements Policy](#).

A Basic Household Safety Assessment includes:

- Completion of the Unlicensed Caregiver Placement Checklist and Caregiver Intake ([DSHS 15-280](#))
- Completion of the Placement Agreement ([DSHS 15-281](#))
- Inspection of the physical setting (see Considerations below)
NOTE: The family must eliminate identified safety issues **PRIOR** to placement.
- Documentation in a Case Note on the suitability of the placement

Considerations for the inspection of the physical setting include:

Hygiene

- Clean, sanitary home
- Working bathing facility
- Working sewage discharge

General

- Minimum of one working telephone on site for emergencies
- Working smoke detectors

Hazards

- Sleeping environment is age appropriate and free of hazards
- No electrical hazards
- Poisons and medications are in secure location
- Open, unprotected water sources have a safety plan for younger children
- Sleeping areas have a minimum of two exits (e.g. window and door)
- Weapons are secured and out of reach of a child
- Stair safety gates for infants/toddlers
- No unprotected 2nd story windows
- If potential caregiver has animals, safety concerns have been discussed with caregiver